

Message Text

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TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.,

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS MATERIAL

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 32

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF KEATLEY ARTICLE, WALL STREET JOURNAL
ARTICLE, FEBRUARY 18, PAGE 2. HEADLINE: KISSINGER JOURNEY
PRODUCES SOME GAINS ON MIDEAST PEACE, DETENTE AND ENERGY

BEGIN TEXT: LONDON - SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER
RETURNS TO THE U.S. FROM A NINE-NATION TOUR TOMORROW
CONVINCED HE HAS MADE PROGRESS ON THREE IMPORTANT FOREIGN
POLICY CONCERNS - THE MIDEAST, DETENTE AND ENERGY.

HIS CLAIMS ARE MODEST, HOWEVER. THOUGH CHANCES OF ANOTHER
INTERIM MIDEAST PEACE MOVE - A SECOND ISRAELI TROOP WITH-
DRAWAL IN THE SINAI DESERT - APPARENTLY HAVE IMPROVED,
MR. KISSINGER CAUTIONS THAT SEVERAL FACTORS COULD UNDO THE
EFFORT. HE HOPES A COUPLE WEEKS OF SHUTTLING BETWEEN
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CAIRO AND JERUSALEM NEXT MONTH WILL BRING AGREEMENT.

MEANTIME, HIS TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO IN GENEVA, WHICH ENDED YESTERDAY, WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED. THE CHANCE OF A RUSSION EFFORT

TO BLOCK THE MIDEAST PEACE MOVE SEEMS SLIGHTLY REDUCED AND THE SOVIET POLITBURO MEMBER STRESSED HE WANTS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THUS, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MR. KISSINGER WILL TRY AGAIN TO WORK OUT A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT TO PERMIT INCREASED JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION, PLUS TARIFF AND CREDIT CONCESSIONS FOR THE RUSSIANS.

PREVIOUS FAILURE - THE PREVIOUS EFFORT FAILED WHEN MOSCOW REJECTED CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS THAT IT CONSIDERED INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ANY NEW EFFORT WILL TRY TO ARRANGE TERMS MORE SECRETLY SO IT DOESN'T BECOME A PUBLIC POLITICAL ISSUE AGAIN.

ON ENERGY, THE TRAVELING SECRETARY BELIEVES HE SCORED POINTS BOTH WITH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. SAUDI ARABIA, THE MAIN EXPORTER, WILL DISCUSS MR. KISSINGER'S CONCEPT OF LOWER PRICES IN RETURN FOR LONG-TERM PURCHASE COMMITMENTS, ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T PROMISE TO AGREE. A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IS TALKING THIS OVER IN RIYADH, THE SAUDI CAPITAL, WITH OIL EXPERTS THERE.

MR. KISSINGER CONTENTS THAT THE WEST GERMANS SUPPORT ANOTHER OF HIS ENERGY IDEAS - THAT OF ESTABLISHING A FLOOR PRICE FOR IMPORTED OIL SO THAT CUT-RATE FUEL WON'T SOMEDAY UNDERCUT COSTLY ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES DEVELOPED BY INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. THE U.S. SAYS SUCH SOURCES MUST BE DEVELOPED TO END WESTERN DEPENDENCE UPON THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, OR OPEC.

MR. KISSINGER EXPECTS BRITAIN AND FRANCE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL AS WELL. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME INTERNAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES. SOME EUROPEANS SUSPECT IT IS A SCHEME MAINLY TO BENEFIT THE U.S.

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WHICH HAS LARGE SUPPLIES OF COAL AND OTHER FUEL RESOURCES.

BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, MR. KISSINGER WILL DISCUSS ENERGY WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN, WHOM HE MEETS TODAY IN ZURICH. ALL THESE TALKS ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A MAJOR CONSUMER-PRODUCER OIL CONFERENCE EXPECTED IN PARIS LATE NEXT MONTH.

MIDEAST SITUATION - JUST WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE MID-EAST, HOWEVER, REMAINS THE OVERRIDING ISSUE. ANOTHER WAR THERE WOULD UPSET EFFORTS TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENERGY PROBLEM, AND COULD BRING A U.S.-SOVIET CONFRONTATION, DESTROYING DETENTE.

KISSINGER CLAIMS THE NEXT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE THE TOUGHEST YET AND DECLINES TO MAKE ANY FIRM PREDICTIONS. BUT HE LEAVES THE IMPRESSION, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT THE CURRENT TRIP HAS IMPROVED PEACE PROSPECTS. UNDER DISCUSSION IS A MAJOR ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI FROM TWO STRATEGIC MOUNTAIN PASSES AND FROM CAPTURED OIL FIELDS, WHICH PROVIDE 60 OF ISRAEL'S PETROLEUM NEEDS. IN RETURN, ISRAEL WANTS PUBLIC AND SUBSTANTIAL EGYPTIAN POLITICAL MOVES AWAY FROM THE OFFICIAL STATE OF WAR THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THEM.

THESE CENTER ON NONBELIGERENCY PLEDGES FROM CAIRO, SOMETHING EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT IS RELUCTANT TO GIVE BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR TO ERODE ARAB UNITY. HOWEVER, AFTER TALKS WITH THE AREA'S MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES - PLUS THE RUSSIANS, THE ARAB'S MAIN ARMS SUPPLIERS - MR. KISSINGER OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES ANOTHER INTERIM STEP IS POSSIBLE.

MORE GENEVA TALKS - AFTER THAT, THE PARTIES PROBABLY WOULD RECONVENE THE GENEVA MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE. SO FAR, THE U.S. RESISTS THAT ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD PRODUCE ONLY A DANGEROUS STALEMATE. BUT THERE IS ACCEPTANCE THAT IT MAY BE INEVITABLE DUE TO SOVIET AND SOME ARAB PRESSURE. THERE IS ALSO HOPE THAT MEETING AGAIN IN GENEVA COULD BRING SUCCESS IF IT COMES JUST UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER CONCLUSIONS OF A SINAI ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE PARTIES IN A RELATIVELY GOOD MOOD.

NONE OF THIS WILL BE EASY, ISRAELI LEADERS ARE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO AVOID MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO THE ARABS. IF THEY GO TOO FAR, THEIR GOVERNMENT COULD BE OUSTED. MEANTIME, MR. SADAT FEARS GENEROUS COMPROMISE WITH ISRAEL WOULD TURN RADICAL ARABS AGAINST HIM, AND PERHAPS CUT OFF FINANCING FROM SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH ALSO HAS POLITICAL REASONS FOR WANTING TO APPEAR SOMEWHAT MILITANT.

SYRIA REMAINS LESS FLEXIBLE THAN EGYPT AND PREACHES AGAINST COMPROMISE WITH ISRAEL. IT ALSO WANTS THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION BROUGHT INTO THE

NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM.

RESTRAINED OPTIMISM - YET MR. KISSINGER EXHIBITS RESTRAINED OPTIMISM. HE APPARENTLY BELIEVES ALL PARTIES WILL GO ALONG WITH ANOTHER SINAI MOVE, PROVIDED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS RECONVENED SOON AFTER. WHETHER THE

MEETING WOULD MERELY RATIFY THE SINAI AGREEMENT OR PICK UP SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, SUCH AS ISRAELI EVACUATION OF SYRIA'S GOLAN HEIGHTS, IS UNRESOLVED.

IN HIS TALKS WITH MR. GROMYKO, SECRETARY KISSINGER LEARNED THAT SOVIET PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV STILL PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON, PROBABLY IN JUNE OR JULY. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT MR. BREZHNEV'S POOR HEALTH MIGHT FORCE A CANCELLATION. BUT HE APPARENTLY WILL RESUME FULL DUTIES AFTER A FEW MORE WEEKS OF REST.

ARMS CONTROL ALSO WAS DISCUSSED. THE U.S. PUT FORWARD SOME IDEAS ABOUT THE PLANNED SECOND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS TREATY THAT MR. BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD HOPE TO SIGN DURING THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. BROAD OUTLINES OF THIS AGREEMENT WERE NEGOTIATED LAST NOVEMBER IN VLADIVOSTOK BUT MANY DETAILS REMAIN, SUCH AS WHAT WEAPONS WOULD BE COUNTED AND HOW. MR. KISSINGER UNCLASSIFIED

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BELIEVES THIS CAN BE COMPLETED IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. END WSJ TEXT.

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